(0) The Heads of the two delegations initialled the proposed Agreement between India and Israel on Trade and Economic Cooperation on 19th April, 1994.

Bilateral trade between India and Israel increased from Rs. 317.86 crores during 1991-92 to Rs. 660.24 crores daring 1992-93. In the first 9 months of 1993-94, India's trade with Israel was Rs. 895.93 crores.

(d) During the discussions, the Indian side expressed the view that finalisation of the Agreements on Trade and Avoidance of Double Taxation would go a long way in improving the environment for active economic cooperation between the two countries. The Indian side also requested the Israeli side for reduction in the tariff structure on import of handloom/ handicrafts items, readymade garments, handloom rugs and carpets, etc. from India.

Agricoltnral Exports

*384. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the agricultural exports registered during 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 in terms of quantum of agriculture products and foreign exchange earnings;

(b) what percentage of the total exports did it constitute; and

(c) the percentage increase in agricultural exports over that in the respective preceding year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The details of India's overall exports and those of agricultural commodities (excluding cotton) and marine products during 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 (April-December, 1993) are given below :—

(Rs. Crores)

	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94 (April-Dec.)
1. India's overall exports . . .	44041.81	53350.54	49182.36
2. Exports of agricultural Commodities & marine products.	6027.94	7256.45	7187.03
3. Percentage share of exports of agri-marine commoditi:s to overall exports from India	13.69%	13.60%	14.61%
4. Percentage increase in exports of agricultural commodities.	(+) 56.55%	(+) 20.38%	

(SOURCB ; DGCI&S, Calcutta).

दवाओं के निर्यात में वृद्धि

*387. श्री अजीत जोगी : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री तथा यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि चालू वर्ष के दौरान आयुर्वेदिक, यूनानी और अन्य दवाओं के निर्यात में भारी वृद्धि हुई है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है और इन दवाओं के निर्यात के कारण कितनी विदेशी मुद्रा अर्जित की गई; और

(ग) इन दवाओं का निर्माण करने वाली कम्पनियों को क्या सहायता/समर्थन दिया गया है या दिए जाने का विचार है ?

वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री प्रणव मुखर्जी) : (क) तथा (ख) जी, हां । आयुर्वेदिक, यूनानी और जड़ी-बूटी आधारित उत्पादों/औषधियों/औषधीय पौधों के निर्यात में पिछले वर्षों में वृद्धि का रुख रहा है । वर्ष 1992-93 के दौरान हुए निर्यात से अर्जित कुल विदेशी मुद्रा का अनुमान 206.78 करोड़ रु० हैं ।

(ग) इन औषधियों का निर्यात/निर्यात संवर्धन कार्य मूल रसायन, भैषजीय पदार्थ, प्रसाधन सामग्री निर्यात संवर्धन परिषद (केमेक्सिल), बंबई देखती है । परिषद ने इन औषधियों के निर्यात संवर्धन के लिए निम्नलिखित उपाय किए हैं :—

—इन उत्पाद समूहों के संवर्धन के विभिन्न पहलुओं की जांच हेतु अलग से एक दल का गठन ;

—भारत के चुनिन्दा औषधीय पौधों के संबंध में एक मोनोग्राफ का प्रकाशन और विभिन्न देशों के स्वास्थ्य प्राधिकारियों के पास इन उत्पादों का पंजीयन सुगम बनाने के लिए विदेशों में अलग से एक शिष्टमंडल भेजना;

—निर्यातकों के साथ अनुभव के आदान-प्रदान और निर्यात बढ़ाने के लिए कार्यनीति तैयार करने की दृष्टि से उनके साथ सेमिनारों का आयोजन;

निर्यात संवर्धन में सहायता हेतु आयुर्वेदिक, यूनानी और अन्य जड़ी-बूटी आधारित उत्पादों सहित विभिन्न उत्पादों की एक निर्देशिका का संकलन, इसके अलावा, सरकार द्वारा विगत में किए गए अवमूल्यन, एकीकृत विनिमय-दर की घोषणा, बाजार विकास सहायता (एमडीए), आदि उदारीकरण उपायों के फलस्वरूप आयुर्वेदिक, यूनानी और जड़ी-बूटी आधारित औषधियों सहित हर प्रकार के निर्यात को प्रोत्साहन मिला है ।

(स्त्रोत : केमेक्सिल) ।

Working conditions in Plastic Unite

*390. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the working conditions in various plastic units are unhygienic and hazardous;

(b) if so, whether Government have carried out any survey of these units and if so, with what results; and

(c) whether Government propose to improve the working conditions of these units and if so, the details thereof *1*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) The State Governments/Union Territory Administrations of Arunachal Pradesh, Andaman & Nico-bar Islands, Lakshadweep, Mizoram, Punjab, Meghalaya and Sikkim have informed that they have no plastic units. According to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations of Assam, Rajasthan, Haryana, Kerala, Tripura, Maharashtra, Tamilnadu, Orissa, Manipur, Pondicherry, Karnataka, Gujarat, Chandigarh and Daman & Diu, it is not a fact that working conditions in plastic units are unhygienic and hazardous. Only Delhi has informed that working conditions in these units are unhygienic and hazardous. In none of .the States/Union Territories including in Delhi, any specific surveys have been carried out though periodic inspections are reportedly being carried out by the concerned authorities.

(c) "Synthetic Resin and Plastics" have been included in the list of industries involving hazardous processes as given in the First Schedule to the Factories Act, 1948 as amended in the year 1987.

The provisions of Chapter IV-A of the Act and the Rules made thereunder which contain special provisions for regulating safety and health aspects in hazardous process industries are also applicable to plastic units in view of their hazard potential. The Act also contains general provisions applicable to all factories for protecting health of workers such as cleanliness, disposal of wastes and effluents, ventilation, safeguards against inhalation and accumulation of dust and fumes etc.

The responsibility for complying with the provisions of the Factories Act, 1948 lies with the occupier of the Factory. The State Governments/Union Territory Administrations are responsible for enforcing the provisions of the Act.

Scrapping age limit for Import of Second Hand Capital Goods under EXIM Policy

*391. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD:
SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under the newly announced EXIM policy Govern-msnt have decided to scrap the age-limit for the import of second hand capital goods;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that this relaxation would embolden the unscrupulous exporters abroad to dump into India, inefficient and outmoded technology and plants; and

(c) whether it is a fact that such a move would help the recession-hit industry in the West through over-invoicing of 'junk' machinery meant for exports to India?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes. Sir.